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291 ually wear are made of felt and soled with leather. Our own boots were in a deplorable condition after 2000 miles of Chinese roads, and we were glad to be able to get such serviceable substitutes as the Tibetan article. They are not, however, altogether comfortable: the sole is so thin that every sharp little stone can be painfully felt through it.

435 We had brought with us some musical boxes and field glasses as presents to reward friendly individuals who might assist us in our travels, but we soon found that among Tibetans there was not the slightest prospect of finding anyone friendly enough to deserve a present. So we began to make use of these things in our horse dealing bargains. Two musical boxes and a pair of glasses was the price of a very nice pony we bought from one of the military mandarins.

132 The climate of Ba-t'ang we found extremely pleasant, very much like a hot summer day in England. During our stay the maximum temperature was 80° and the minimum 55°. The heat can never be very great in summer. Snow, they say, falls occasionally in winter but [241] always thaws by the middle of the day. The place lies 133 too high to cultivate rice, but wheat and barley grow well, and peach trees appear to thrive. We made the height 9,300 feet by both aneroid and boiling point thermometer. This is considerably higher than the observations of other travellers. Desgodins gives 8,065 feet, Rockhill 8,223 feet, Bower 8,500 feet, and Gill 8,546 feet[1].

•758 The inhabitants of Ba-t'ang we found quite pleasant, and Manifold made them still more friendly by performing several operations for cataract. After the first patient—an old woman—had been successfully operated on and found she could see again, there was quite a run on Manifold's services and he restored the sight of seven people altogether. There was some danger that the patients would be too anxious to use their eyes again and would not keep them bandaged for the necessary four days, but we heard afterwards that all the operations were successful.

[1] Hosie, however, who has visited Ba-t'ang since we were there, makes the height 9,184 feet.